

Alexandria Gazette?

VOLUME CV.--NO. 166.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., WEDNESDAY EVENING, JULY 13, 1904.

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"Go West,"

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[Entered at the Postoffice at Alexandria, Virginia, as second-class matter.]

STATEMENT FROM MR. BRYAN.

W. J. Bryan yesterday gave out the following statement:

"I shall vote for Parker and Davis, the nominees of the democratic national convention, and shall do so for the following reasons:

"First—Because the democratic ticket stands for opposition to imperialism, while the republican ticket stands for an imperialistic policy. On this question, which was the paramount issue in 1900, and which must remain an important issue so long as an attempt is made to hold colonies under the American flag—on this issue the convention was unanimous, the platform emphatic, and I have no doubt that the candidate will carry out the platform.

"Second—Mr. Roosevelt is injecting the race issue into American politics, and this issue, if it becomes national, will make it impossible to consider economic questions that demand solution. The election of the democratic ticket will put a quietus upon this attempt and permit the race question to work itself out without the bitterness which Mr. Roosevelt's conduct has engendered.

"Third, Mr. Roosevelt stands for the spirit of war. His friends present him as a man of blood and iron. He believes in strenuousness and inculcates a love for warlike things. The democratic ticket stands for peace, for reason and for arbitration rather than for force, conquest and bluster.

"Fourth, The democratic platform declares in favor of the reduction of the standing army, and as this plank was unanimously adopted there is reason to believe that a democratic success on this subject would bring some advantage to the people.

"For these four reasons I feel justified in supporting the ticket, but I shall not misrepresent the situation or appeal for votes for the ticket upon false grounds. A democratic victory will mean very little, if any, progress on economic questions so long as the party is under the control of the Wall street element. On the money question Mr. Parker is as thoroughly committed to the side of the financiers as Mr. Roosevelt. If he does not go so far as the republicans would in retiring silver dollars, in establishing branch banks, in enlarging the powers of the national banks, and in the substitution of an asset currency for the present currency, it will be because he is restrained by the democrats in the House and Senate. Nothing good can be expected of him on the money question.

"On the trust question the democratic platform is very much better than the republican platform, but the nomination of Judge Parker virtually nullifies the anti-trust plank. Unless in his letter of acceptance he commits himself to attempt anti-trust legislation we need not expect him to pursue a different course from that pursued by President Roosevelt.

"So far as the labor question is concerned, we must await Judge Parker's letter before we shall know whether the laboring man has anything to expect from his election. The labor plank as prepared by Judge Parker's friends on the sub-committee was a straddling, meaningless plank. In the full committee planks were adopted in favor of arbitration, the eight-hour day and against government by injunction; also a plank on the Colorado situation. If Judge Parker is silent or ambiguous on these subjects it will mean that the financial influence back to him will not permit him to take the labor side of these disputed questions.

"On the tariff, question some little progress may be hoped for, but the Parker men on the committee were necessarily in favor of a very conservative tariff plank, and it remains to be seen whether Judge Parker will carry out the positive and definite plank which was submitted by the full committee. This is the situation.

"Judge Parker stands for enough things that are good to justify me in giving him my vote, but as I have tried to point out for several months, the triumph of the Wall street element of the party denies to the country any hope of relief on economic question. I have nothing to take back. I have nothing to withdraw of the things that I have said against the methods pursued to advance his candidacy. It was a plain and deliberate attempt to deceive the party.

"If he had sent to the Albany convention the telegram that he sent to the St. Louis convention he would have had very few instructed delegates from the South, and no possible chance for the nomination. But he and his managers adroitly and purposely concealed his position until the delegates had been corralled and the nomination assured. Then his friends attempted to secure a gold plank, which was overwhelmingly defeated in the committee.

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not upon conditions as he would like to have them.

"After having stated that I shall support the ticket and after having given my reasons for so doing, I think it due to the democrats of the nation to say that while the fight on economic questions is postponed, it is not abandoned. As soon as the election is over I shall, with the help of those who believe as I do, undertake to organize for the campaign of 1908, the object being to marshal the friends of popular government within the democratic party to the support of a radical and progressive policy to make the democratic party an efficient means in the hands of the people for securing relief from the plutocratic element that controls the republican party and for the time being is in control of the democratic party. This plan of organization will be elaborated soon."

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